



Key Stage 4 Pathway Information Booklet 2012



Further Information

This booklet contains a brief outline of the subjects you may choose. If you would like further information, please do not be afraid to ask. Your Head of Year and Form Tutor are your main contacts and will be able to offer advice and find out further details about subjects on your behalf.

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CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Core Subjects	6
GCSE Courses	
Art & Design	8
Business, Administration & Finance	9
Business Studies	10
Caring for Children	11
Computing	12
Drama	13
Economics	14
Fashion, Design and Textiles	15
Food Technology	16
French	17
Geography	18
German	19
Graphics	20
Health & Social Care	21
History	22
Leisure & Tourism	23
Media Studies	24
Music	25
Philosophy & Ethics	26
Photography	27
Physical Education	28
Preparation for Working Life	29
Psychology	30
Resistant Materials	31
Spanish	32
BTEC/OCR Courses	
Business BTEC	33
Hospitality Skills BTEC	34
ICT Cambridge National Certificate	35
Sports BTEC(Diploma and Extended Certificate)	36
City & Guilds Courses	
Construction Skills	37
Hair & Beauty	38
Hospitality and Catering	39

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is intended to help you make decisions about the subjects you will study during Years 10 and 11. Subjects may be taken to a variety of levels, and may provide you with career qualifications or form the basis of Further and, possibly, Higher Education.

There are many reasons why the decisions you will have to take are extremely important. Firstly, you will have to live with these subjects for the next two years and must be satisfied that your decisions will allow you to enjoy your studies, as well as to benefit from them. Secondly, the beginning of your career and your early prospects may be affected by what you decide, as well as how you succeed. Thirdly, if you have Further Education in mind, you are now beginning the process of specialising - a process which will continue possibly to a degree course at university. Each one of you will have your own reasons for whatever course you take, and there is no 'golden rule' that will fit everybody. It is vital to approach the matter carefully and to make informed decisions.

You should aim to include subjects from a range of curriculum areas, ensuring that you have a balanced curriculum overall. In this regard, current Government advice suggests schools and colleges promote the English Baccalaureate. The English Baccalaureate recognises students' achievements across a core of academic subjects, namely English, mathematics, sciences, a language and a humanities subject. Furthermore, it is highly likely that this qualification will be required by post-16 colleges for A Level study and by universities for those who wish to study for a degree.

A word of caution – although the College will try to ensure all decisions are accommodated we cannot guarantee a place in all your subjects. **If there are insufficient students choosing a particular subject, it will not run.**

Clearly, you and your parents will want to identify your current areas of strength as well as taking account of your future aspirations. In order to support you with this, you and your parents will have plenty of opportunities to discuss your specific requirements during the Parent Focus Evening on 9 February and the Parent Consultation Evening on 22 February. You will also be able to seek additional information and guidance from tutors and subject teachers. In addition to this, you and your parents will be invited to an individual consultation with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that the decisions you have made will secure your future aspirations.

KEY DATES

1 February 2012	Pathways Decisions Launch Assembly
3 February 2012	Presentations for students on subjects not previously studied
9 February 2012	Year 9 Parents' Focus Evening – Pathways Information Evening from 7.00pm
22 February 2012	Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening 4pm – 7pm
29 February 2012	Deadline for return of Pathway Decisions forms
5 March onwards	Senior staff to conduct student/parent interviews
30 April onwards	Individual consultation for some students and their parents, if subjects clash or are unavailable
June 2012	Final Key Stage 4 Programme is agreed and communicated to parents and students

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- DO** choose subjects that match your interests, skills and plans for the future. You will be more successful studying subjects you enjoy.
- DO** talk to the following people: Parents, subject teachers and form tutors.
- DO** talk to students who are already studying these subjects in Years 10 and 11: brothers or sisters or other people you may know.
- DO** ask if you are unsure about anything.
- DO** make sure you find out what a course involves.
- DON'T** think that you know what a subject will be like at GCSE level simply because you have studied it at Key Stage 3. It could be different.
- DON'T** choose a particular subject because your friend has chosen it or because you think you will be taught by a particular teacher.

THE KEY STAGE 4 PROGRAMME

All students will study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Enrichment Programme this will include a) 'Core' elements that will comprise half termly modules related to RE, Healthy Lifestyles and Careers Information and Guidance b) 'Choice' elements ranging from ICT, Environmental and International projects to specialist interest modules. (Students will be consulted later in the year about their 'Choice' elements).

In order to complete your programme you need to select **FOUR** subjects (or four subject equivalents, taking into account subjects that take up two selections)

PATHWAY A	Non- Baccalaureate Programme of Study	Study Four subjects (or four subject equivalents). Choose any from the list on the following page.		
PATHWAY B	Baccalaureate Programme of Study	Must include at least One Subject that is a Modern Foreign Language from	Must include at least One Subject that is a Humanity from	PLUS Two other Subjects
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • German • Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography • History 	

On the next page you will see listed the subjects from which you can make your selection. You **MUST** select subjects that total a value of 4 and **have two reserve selections**. You will be given a form to complete following the Parents' Focus Evening on Thursday 9 February.

Subjects that can be added to your KS4 programme	Value of each selection (Should total 4)
GCSE Courses	
Art and Design	1
Business, Administration & Finance	1
Business Studies	1
Caring for Children	1
Computing	1
Drama	1
Economics	1
Fashion, Design & Textiles	1
Food Technology	1
French	1
Geography	1
German	1
Graphics	1
Health & Social Care	1
History	1
Leisure & Tourism	1
Media Studies	1
Music	1
Philosophy & Ethics	1
Photography	1
Physical Education	1
Preparation for Working Life	1
Psychology	1
Resistant Materials	1
Spanish	1
BTEC/OCR Courses	
Business	1
Hair and Beauty	2
Hospitality Skills	2
ICT OCR	1
Sport	1 or 2
City and Guilds Courses	
Beauty	2
Construction Skills	2
Hairdressing	2
Hospitality and Catering	2

Progression Pathways:

Mathematics can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely Sixth Form Centre.

SCIENCE

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: Combination of external examination and coursework

Course Overview:

All students will study either Triple Award or the Double Award Science

- Triple Award: Students follow a course that, over two years, results in GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. This course will meet the needs of those looking to follow science courses at Key Stage 5.
- Double Award: Students follow a common course in Year 10 that leads to a GCSE in Science A. On completion of GCSE Science, students will either follow the Additional Science A course at Foundation or Higher Level. This is a concept-led course that meets the needs of students who wish progress to Further and Higher Education and leads to the award of a second GCSE in Science.

Progression Pathways:

Science can currently be studied as single A/S subjects - chemistry, biology, and physics, at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

GCSE COURSES

GCSEs are the most well-known of the courses available at Key Stage 4. All the courses shown in this section offer a full GCSE at grades A* - G unless stated otherwise.

ART AND DESIGN

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 60% coursework
40% Final examination project

Course Overview:

- The course takes the form of a series of projects, each of which will take from between four and six weeks to complete. These will improve your skills in a wide range of materials and you will also explore new and different media.
- Throughout the course, you will develop three main bodies of work relating to three different themes, one of which will be an externally set examination theme. You will learn about the work of other artists and use this knowledge to make connections with your own artwork. You will also see artwork when you visit museums and art galleries in Cambridge and London with the department.
- Most students follow a course that covers a wide range of two or three-dimensional media, but some may choose to specialise. If you specialise in ceramics/sculpture, you will do the same projects as other students, but all your finished work will be in clay or three-dimensional media.
- The examination consists of an externally set paper, which students respond to over a period of 8 weeks, developing and exploring ideas culminating in a 10-hour final examination held over a two-day period.

Progression Pathways:

Art and design GCSE would be a key requirement to going onto study Art at 6th Form. Art can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Type of Qualification: Vocational (Equivalent to 4.5 GCSEs)

How it is assessed: 86% Controlled Assessment
14% External Examination

Course Overview:

- The course takes the form of 7 units of work made up of a series of controlled assessment activities completed in lesson time, with two external exams (one in year 10 and one in year 11).
- The course in Business, Administration and Finance is built around three main themes: Business Enterprise - Looks at how to develop ideas, how to carry out research and how to promote products or services. Business Administration - Introduces business administration and its importance to organisations. Finance - Looks at the knowledge and skills needed to manage personal and business finances.
- This course teaches young people about business, administration and finance and helps them to become more employable. The employer-endorsed content is up-to-date and relevant, reflecting the blend of business knowledge, practical skills, communication and team-working skills needed by someone who is thinking about a career in any business-related job.
- The external examination consists of a one hour set paper.

Progression Pathways:

A course in Business, Administration and Finance will give you the skills you need for either university or work, and is a first step towards a career in this sector. It could lead you to a university degree in business administration, marketing or management or a career in human resources, sales and marketing, financial services, learning and development or any one of the vast range of different businesses operating across the globe.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 75% Written Examination
25% Controlled Assessment

Course Overview:

- Business Studies helps students understand more about how and why businesses operate in the way they do. Students are able to relate what they study to everyday activities, such as purchasing goods, and the news reported in the media. As well as developing students' knowledge and understanding of the world of business, this course helps students to develop a range of skills such as: decision-making; interpreting and managing information; devising solutions to problems and issues.
- Students are encouraged to develop a lifelong interest in, and enjoyment of, business subjects, and to develop and apply their knowledge and skills to understand today's issues in local, national and global contexts.
- The course comprises a number of units, within which students will study Business Start-up, Production and Marketing, Finance, Managing People, Business Growth and how to write a Business Plan.

Progression Pathways:

Business Studies can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

CARING FOR CHILDREN

Type of Qualification: GCSE and Entry level

How it is assessed: 60% Coursework
40% Examination
(Entry level is 100% coursework)

Course Overview:

- Interested in working with children? Child Development could help you to become a nanny, playgroup leader, nursery school assistant, midwife or social worker. It will provide you with a good grounding if you are thinking of any caring profession and will make a GCE A Level in Health and Social Care or Level 3 Society Health and Development Diploma a strong possibility.
- The course focuses on child development from conception to the age of five. You will develop knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to the roles and responsibilities of the family, pre-conception, conception, pregnancy, birth and post-natal factors, diet and health in relation to young babies and children, stages and conditions of development and support available to the child and the family.
- 60% of the final mark is from four pieces of coursework; 3 short tasks and 1 Child Study task. The written exam paper is 40% of your marks; it is based on the Principles of Child Development. You will be prepared for this throughout the course with group work, videos and individual research.
- **OCR Child Development Entry level** - This follows the same scheme of learning as the GCSE. Candidate assessment will be based on 100% coursework.

Progression Pathways:

To take further to NVQ qualifications or to work with children from play groups to care situations.

COMPUTING

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Written Examination
60% Controlled Assessments

Course Overview:

- In response to calls made by employers and industry, the College is pleased to offer GCSE Computing for the first time this year.
- Computing offers students the opportunity to extend themselves beyond the usual offer of GCSE ICT. Computing provides students with a knowledge of the workings and processes performed by a computer, as distinct from the use of a computer, which is covered in ICT.
- The course content is provisional and indicative at time of print as more exam boards are offering courses to come on-stream from Sept 2012 about which information is not yet available.
- Unit A451: Computer systems and programming – students are required to answer a mixture of short and long answer questions as part of the written exam paper, some of which will require candidates to write program code.
- Unit A452: Practical investigation – this is an investigative task within which students carry out a practical investigation of a topic chosen from a set of options supplied by the examination board as part of a Controlled Assessment.
- Unit A453: Programming project - students create solutions to computing tasks chosen from a set of options supplied by the examination board as part of a Controlled Assessment.

Progression Pathways:

Computing GCSE will provide excellent preparation for further higher level study in computing, programming, computer science or allied fields such as Mathematics or Physics.

DRAMA

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 60% Practical
40% Theory

Course Overview:

- Drama GCSE involves working in a variety of ways, devising, shaping and performing. Students will engage in practical drama, considering their own work and that of others; devise new work and explore short examples of existing work; as well as consider simple cultural, social and historical influences on new and existing work.
- Students will learn to solve problems using drama activities; learn how to organise and plan practical work; act out situations to explore human relationships.
- Frequently working in groups, students will spend a lot of time doing things in a creative and organised manner. Through this, students learn to appreciate the power of theatre and the many ways it can make a person grow.
- The course consists of three units as follows: Unit 1 – From page to stage (acting from a script – Blood Brothers), Unit 2 – Drama in the Making (drama workshops and presentations) and Unit 3 – Concept to Creation (creating a drama from a stimulus).
- Each unit of work consists of an assessed Drama performance and one piece of coursework based on that performance.

Progression Pathways:

Theatre Studies can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely Sixth Form Centre. GCSE Drama is seen as essential for admission onto the GCE Drama and Theatre Studies course.

ECONOMICS

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 100% Written Examination

Course Overview:

- The aim of the course is to engage students actively in the study of economics to help them understand current events and issues on a local and global scale. Students will consider the moral issues that arise as a result of economic activity on the environment and on economic development.
- Three units are studied within the course: Unit 1 - How the Market Works, Unit 2 - How the Economy Works, Unit 3 - The UK Economy and Globalisation

Progression Pathways:

GCSE Economics is an ideal stepping stone for further study of Economics at A Level, which is offered at Ely Sixth Form. In addition, the course content and range of skills required make it perfect for progression on to a whole host of other Further Education subjects, including Politics, Law, Ethics, Philosophy, Sociology, Business Studies, History and the IB Diploma. Economics is also held in high regard by universities and employers in the financial and business sectors.

FASHION, DESIGN AND TEXTILES

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Coursework

Course Overview:

- This is an interesting course for students who enjoy working with textile materials of all kinds. Students discover how fabrics are used in the fashion industry and everyday life to create fashion garments and items for the home. Areas covered by the course include the study of fibres and fabrics, the decoration of textiles, and the study of fashion designers at work in industry.
- During the course, students will carry out a wide range of practical design projects of their own choice. Practical skills are developed through use of modern computerised machines within the department.

Progression Pathways:

Fashion, Design and Textiles GCSE is a useful qualification in various aspects of the Fashion Industry and in the related areas of textile design, manufacture and the buying and selling of products.

At present Ely College Sixth Form Centre offers this subject at AS and A2 level.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Coursework

Course Overview:

- Food GCSE is a course for those students who enjoy designing, experimenting and making food for many occasions.
- 60% of the final marks are given for a design and make controlled assessment given by the exam board. Skills required for this will include researching, designing, modifying, developing, making and evaluating.
- Exams account for the remaining 40% of the final marks. These test a student's ability and knowledge of basic food, nutrition and technology as well as design work and will be revised thoroughly between the coursework deadline and the exams.

Progression Pathways:

Food GCSE is a useful qualification in various aspects of Food Technology from restaurants to supermarkets and food manufacture and nutrition.

FRENCH

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Controlled Assessments

Course Overview:

- French GCSE is one of the subjects that can form part of a programme of study for the English Baccalaureate.
- The course develops all aspects of students' ability to use French using the four communication skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course is divided into four units based on these skills.
- Unit 1: Listening examination – 20% of final grade
- Unit 2: Reading examination – 20% of final grade
- Unit 3: Speaking controlled assessment – 30% of final grade (2 tasks internally assessed and submitted for moderation)
- Unit 4: Writing controlled assessment. Additional information about how the controlled assessment elements are organised and marked is available on the College website at www.elycollege.com. Select "Modern Languages" to access a copy of the booklet for students and parents.
- As part of the course, students are given the opportunity to visit France and gain an understanding of modern French culture including cinema, music and young French people.
- A GCSE in a foreign language is a well-respected qualification that shows students are able to understand, interact and relate to other people and cultures. It is a key differentiator of employment applicants across a wide range of careers.

Progression Pathways:

French can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

GEOGRAPHY

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 75% Written examination
25% Controlled Assessment

Course Overview:

- Geography GCSE is one of the subjects that can form part of a programme of study for the English Baccalaureate. Subject to timetabling restrictions, students can choose to study both Geography GCSE and History GCSE at Key Stage 4.
- The study of Geography GCSE enables students to develop a knowledge and understanding of current events, investigate the earth and its populations and study the features of the earth and how they were formed.
- Students develop a range of useful skills throughout the course including map reading, data collection and analysis, ICT and problem solving skills.
- The course comprises four units. Each unit of study contributes 25% to the final grade achieved.
- Unit 1: Dynamic Planet – one hour exam taken in June of Year 10
- Unit 2: People and the Planet – one hour exam taken in June of Year 11
- Unit 3: Making Geographical Decisions – one hour exam taken in June of Year 11
- Unit 4: Researching Geography – a field work investigation submitted in Year 11

Progression Pathways:

Geography can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

GERMAN

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Controlled Assessments

Course Overview:

- German GCSE is one of the subjects that can form part of a programme of study for the English Baccalaureate.
- The course develops all aspects of students' ability to use German using the four communication skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course is divided into four units based on these skills.
- Unit 1: Listening examination – 20% of final grade
- Unit 2: Reading examination – 20% of final grade
- Unit 3: Speaking controlled assessment – 30% of final grade (2 tasks internally assessed and submitted for moderation)
- Unit 4: Writing controlled assessment. Additional information about how the controlled assessment elements are organised and marked is available on the College website at www.elycollege.com. Select "Modern Languages" to access a copy of the booklet for students and parents.
- German is a different language from French or Spanish, which are known as Romance Languages. It offers learners the opportunity to study different linguistic patterns and to become more confident in their use of grammar, both in German and English.
- A GCSE in a foreign language is a well-respected qualification that shows students are able to understand, interact and relate to other people and cultures. It is a key differentiator of employment applicants across a wide range of careers.

Progression Pathways:

German can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

GRAPHICS

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Coursework

Course Overview:

- Graphics GCSE is a course for those students who enjoy designing and presenting their work in a very visual way.
- 60% of the final marks are given for designing and then making a graphic product, a greetings card or the packaging for a specified product, for example. The skills needed to do this are taught through a number of shorter projects in the first part of the course.
- Exams account for the remaining 40% of the final marks. These test a student's ability and knowledge of basic technical drawing as well as design work and will be revised thoroughly between the coursework deadline and the exams.

Progression Pathways:

Graphics GCSE is a useful qualification in various design fields including architecture, graphic and interior design and desktop publishing.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Type of Qualification: GCSE (Single or Double Award)

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Controlled Assessment

Course Overview:

- Health and Social Care GCSE provides a broad, overall introduction to health, social care and early years provision. The qualification gives the option of studying for either a single (Level 1) or double award (Level 2).
- Single Award - students are required to complete the following two units: Unit A911 - Health, Social Care and Early Year Provision and Unit A912 – Understanding Personal Development and Relationships.
- Double Award – to qualify for the Double Award students will study two additional units as follows: Unit A913 – Promoting Health and Wellbeing and Unit A914 – Safeguarding and Protecting Individuals.

Progression Pathways:

A GCSE in Health and Social Care would be a valuable qualification for those seeking a career as a Nursery Nurse, Care Assistant, Child minder, Pre-school/Nursery School Assistant. The course would also contribute towards meeting the entry requirements for training for nursing and professions such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy. Health and Social Care can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form.

HISTORY

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 75% Examination
25% Controlled Assessment

Course Overview:

- History GCSE is one of the subjects that can form part of a programme of study for the English Baccalaureate. Subject to timetabling restrictions, students can choose to study both History GCSE and Geography GCSE at Key Stage 4.
- The course comprises four sections. Section 1: International Relations 1919-39 and Section 2: Germany Depth Study 1918-1945 are studied in Year 10. A two-hour exam at the end of Year 10 tests both skills and knowledge in these areas and includes both extended writing tasks and source questions. This exam accounts for 45% of marks towards the final grade.
- Section 3: The Arab Israeli Conflict. Students undertake a Controlled Assessment in class for this section, after studying the unit in the summer term of Year 10 and the autumn term of Year 11. The mark achieved in the Controlled Assessment represents 25% of the overall grade.
- Section 4: British Depth Study 1890-1918 is assessed in a 90-minute examination at the end of Year 11. This exam comprises questions based on a collection of sources and represents 30% of the final grade.

Progression Pathways:

History GCSE is excellent preparation for a number of humanities and social science courses in Further and Higher education. History can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form.

LEISURE AND TOURISM

Type of Qualification: GCSE (Single or Double Award)

How it is assessed: 40% Written Examination
60% Controlled Assessment

Course Overview:

- The course aims to actively engage students in the study of leisure and tourism to develop as effective and independent learners. Students study the nature of the leisure and tourism industry and develop an understanding of the contribution that leisure and tourism makes to society and the economy.
- Unit 1: Understanding the Leisure and Tourism industries - Students develop a broad understanding of the leisure and tourism industries by looking at different types of leisure and tourism organisations and the ways people use leisure and tourism facilities. They also consider the different methods of travel and how people select their chosen method. Issues of sustainability in the tourism industry are also covered.
- Unit 2: Moving forward in Leisure and Tourism - This is an investigation into the different types of leisure and tourism organisations and how they are used in one case study destination. As part of this unit students look at how one facility promotes itself, and at job opportunities and employment in the leisure and tourism industries.
- Unit 3: The Business of Leisure and Tourism - This is a double award unit building on the work covered in Unit 2 above. Students study two organisations in detail, focusing on their marketing (sales and promotion), human resource management and risk management. This unit develops a greater understanding of the specific issues involved in running a leisure and tourism business
- Unit 4: Investigating Tourism Development and Impacts - This is a double award unit that builds on the work covered in Unit 1 above. Students focus on the issues of ecotourism when planning a holiday to a specific destination. They are expected to identify the impacts on the destination of tourism, and consider the role tourists can play in minimising the negative impacts and maximising the positive.
- Please note this course includes attendance on a significant number of educational visits to fulfil the aims and requirements of the course. As most of these visits occur mainly or wholly within the school day, the College is required to request voluntary contributions from parents and carers to cover the costs involved.

Progression Pathways:

Students may use the course as a progression route for further education, continuing with subject specific courses such as Sport and Recreation or Travel Services at Advanced Level.

MEDIA STUDIES

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Coursework

Course Overview:

- As Media Studies is a new subject for most of the students, an interest in some of the types of text we will study is essential: this may be films, television, video games, newspapers, the Internet or even new media technologies. The GCSE seeks to develop students' understanding of how these products influence us, who the target audience is and how each product is representative of the society in which it has been developed.
- The course is equally weighted between practical production work and preparation for the written exam. As part of the practical work, students will be required to use a large amount of IT to create media products such as websites, CD covers and film posters. Consequently, good IT and written skills are required for this course. The course consists of three units, two of which will be completed in Year 10.
- Unit 1 - This unit deals with the analysis of texts from camera work to how people and places are presented. The unit focuses on two different texts: Lifestyle Magazines and Television Comedy. The exam will involve considering an extract from a lifestyle magazine, and writing an analysis of the technical aspects. The second half of the paper will assess students' knowledge of media audiences and institutions, in relation to the television industry.
- Unit 2 – This is an individual piece of work that includes a written and a practical component, on the topic of the representations of the music video industry. Assessment will be by an 800-1500 word assignment, and a practical task.
- Unit 3 – This is a major piece of practical work and will focus on students working in groups to produce an extract of a radio show with issue-based content relevant to young people. Students will be required to write a thousand word evaluation of their work.

Progression Pathways:

This subject can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

MUSIC

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Controlled Assessment

Course Overview:

- Students learn about music through five areas of study: Rhythm, Harmony, Musical Texture, Dynamic & Timbre and Musical Structure.
- Four units are assessed as part of the course: Unit 1 – Listening to and appraising Music, Unit 2 – Composing and Listening to Music, Unit 3 – Performing Music and Unit 4 – Composing Music.
- Do I have to play an instrument? - Yes you do. Singing is counted as an instrument. If you already can play one, it will put you at a real advantage. It may be a good time to start learning an instrument if you do not already. You will improve your chances at examination success if you receive proper lessons on your instrument or voice (we can usually arrange this at the College).
- Very few people who take GCSE Music go on to earn their living from music. However, as a GCSE subject it is considered a proper and reputable qualification which Universities value. Additionally, it is a very engaging and enjoyable subject, which can give you skills you will use for many years, even when you have left school.
- Students should contact Mr London if they have any questions about the Music GCSE course.

Progression Pathways:

Music can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely Sixth Form Centre.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 100% Written Examination

Course Overview:

The course covers four units as follows:

- Philosophy Unit 1 investigates: arguments for and against the existence of God and beliefs about God's involvement in the world; ideas about worship, prayer, food and fasting; beliefs about the soul and concepts of life after death.
- Philosophy Unit 2 investigates: the problem of evil and responses to this; ideas about morality; religious experiences; issues of authority regarding sacred texts; the interaction between religion and science.
- Ethics Unit 1 investigates: issues in human relationships and in sexual ethics; attitudes towards abortion, fertility treatments, euthanasia, suicide and the use of animals in medical research; issues related to wealth and poverty.
- Ethics Unit 2 investigates: issues of justice, peace, crime and punishment; prejudice, equality, forgiveness and reconciliation; religion and the media.
- Studying Philosophy and Ethics develops skills much in demand in a variety of professional contexts. You will develop skills in the analysis of arguments, skills in written and spoken communication, empathy for diversity of opinion, and balance in judgment concerning complex issues. Your knowledge of different cultures will equip you to work in any multi-cultural environment or where an understanding of different ethnic groups is needed.

Progression Pathways:

Studying Philosophy and Ethics is useful for a variety of future careers including: Counselling, Youth work, Religious Leadership, Teaching, Medicine, Law, Management and Social work. The subject can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely Sixth Form Centre.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 60% Coursework
40% Examination Project

Course Overview:

- Photography is a mainly black and white darkroom based (silver print) course with a small element of digital photography. It is focused mainly on the fine art aspect of photography and is an excellent course to explore your artistic creativity using the camera and darkroom as your tools.
- Students work on several projects each lasting around 5-6 weeks. You will research other photographers and will use this research to inform your own ideas. Previous experience of photography is not necessary and you do not need to own your own camera, however students need to commit to attending one afterschool lesson each week.
- As part of the course students learn how to use a 35mm camera, process black and white film, enlarge, print and display their own photographs. Each finished project will consist of a sketchbook and mounted photographs.
- The materials that are used in photography are expensive and a yearly fee of £35 will be charged to each student to cover the cost of a number of films, a portfolio, contribution towards mount card and the use of the darkroom chemicals. Students will need to supply their own photographic paper, sketchbooks and any additional films they require. These can be purchased from the Art Department or any reputable photography/art materials supplier.
- The examination consists of an externally set paper, which students respond to over a period of 8 weeks, developing and exploring ideas culminating in a 10-hour final examination held over a two-day period.

Progression Pathways:

Photography can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 48% Practical
40% Theory
12% Analysis of Performance

Course Overview:

- Students accessing this course will require a strong background in science and a minimum practical Level 6 grade at the end of KS3.
- This GCSE course gives students the opportunity to further their understanding of Physical Education. Students will study the different roles within sport and the relationship between the factors affecting participation and performance. The course covers how and why people get involved in sport and looks at why it is important to lead an active lifestyle.
- The course is broken down into two units. In Unit one, students will study theory aspects and in Unit 2, students will participate in practical performances as a participant, official or leader. Throughout the course, students will be expected to participate in both theory and practical sessions.
- Students will be required to complete a personal exercise programme, which will enhance their knowledge and understanding of the impact that exercise and physical activity has upon health and fitness.

Progression Pathways:

The GCSE course provides a good grounding to study more advanced courses such as AS/A2 Physical Education or the OCR National Sport.

PREPARATION FOR WORKING LIFE

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 80% Examination
20% Coursework

Course Overview:

- Students are encouraged to develop their understanding of the world of work. In Year 11, students are given additional support to consider their future and to make applications for post-16.
- The course is divided into various sections including: Personal Awareness, Healthy Lifestyles for work-life balance, Relationships and the Differences Between People, The Changing World of Work, Applying for Jobs and Courses, Economic and Financial Aspects of Life and Hazard Identification at Home, on the Roads and at Work.
- The written examination paper comprises three compulsory sections. Section A consists of multiple-choice questions, Section B requires short answers, whilst Section C requires longer, structured answers.
- For the coursework element of the qualification, students are required to produce written or word-processed work containing three pre-defined elements, as follows: A letter of application for a job or course to accompany a curriculum vitae, a curriculum vitae and notes on interview preparation.

Progression Pathways:

This is a gateway qualification that can be added to your programme to ensure that you gain sufficient qualifications to follow the pathway you wish to follow post 16. It will orientate students to the world of work if they are interested in an apprenticeship.

PSYCHOLOGY

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 100% Written Examination

Course Overview:

- Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. It is concerned with trying to understand and explain why people feel, think and act in the ways that they do. In order to do this it considers research conducted by psychologists on humans and animals. Psychology will help you to develop your understanding of how and why people think and behave in the way they do. The course is divided in to two units.
- Unit One - Making Sense of other People looks at Memory, Non-verbal Communication, Development of Personality, Stereotyping and Prejudice, Research Methods, Methods of control and Ethics.
- Unit Two - Understanding other People looks at Learning, Social Influence, Sex and Gender, Aggression, Methods of Investigation, Data Analysis and Ethics.
- Psychology is a demanding course that introduces you to ideas and concepts which you have not previously studied. You will learn through a range of learning experiences from individual research, class discussions, group work, practical activities, use of ICT, presentations, videos and more formal written assignments.

Progression Pathways:

Psychology as a subject at GCSE can lead to a number of vocations if taken at A level and degree level, including a range of applied psychologist roles, such as working in the areas of counselling, education, forensics, health, neuropsychology, psychopathology, and sport and exercise. Qualifications in psychology are also valued in many other fields, including: teaching, social work, health care, the media, computing, and marketing. Psychology can currently be studied at AS and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form.

RESISTANT MATERIALS

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Coursework

Course Overview:

- This is a course for those students who enjoy making things in the workshop.
- 60% of the final marks are given for designing and then making a product, which could be batch produced. As the coursework element is so important for success, the first part of the course consists of a number of short projects that develop the skills students will need for the assessed work.
- The examination at the end of the course is worth 40% of the available marks and is based on knowledge gained throughout the course when designing and working with materials. The last part of the course, when the project work is finished, concentrates on preparing students for this.

Progression Pathways:

A GCSE qualification in this subject would be suitable for apprenticeships or work in a practical field using resistant materials. Product Design can currently be studied at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

SPANISH

Type of Qualification: GCSE

How it is assessed: 40% Examination
60% Controlled Assessments

Course Overview:

- Spanish GCSE is one of the subjects that can form part of a programme of study for the English Baccalaureate.
- Spanish GCSE is offered as an increasing number of students want to be able to communicate when they are on holiday, visiting family or perhaps travelling further afield to South America and beyond. Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and as such is a hugely flexible and valuable skill.
- Whilst many students that choose Spanish will not have studied the language before, it is possible to complete the GCSE in two years. Spanish has many similarities with French and this makes it easier for students to pick up.
- The course develops all aspects of students' ability to use Spanish using the four communication skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The course is divided into four units based on these skills.
- Unit 1: Listening examination – 20% of final grade
- Unit 2: Reading examination – 20% of final grade
- Unit 3: Speaking controlled assessment – 30% of final grade (2 tasks internally assessed and submitted for moderation)
- Unit 4: Writing controlled assessment. Additional information about how the controlled assessment elements are organised and marked is available on the College website at www.elycollege.com. Select "Modern Languages" to access a copy of the booklet for students and parents.
- A GCSE in a foreign language is a well-respected qualification that shows students are able to understand, interact and relate to other people and cultures. It is a key differentiator of employment applicants across a wide range of careers.

Progression Pathways:

Spanish can currently be studied at A/S and A2 Level at Ely College Sixth Form Centre.

BTEC/OCR COURSES

BTEC courses were originally designed for delivery in the workplace; however, they are now widely delivered in schools. They are highly vocational and are graded differently to GCSEs with achievement expressed as Distinction, Merit and Pass. BTECs are 100% coursework based with no examinations.

BUSINESS

Type of Qualification: BTEC Level 2 First Extended Certificate (Equivalent to 2 GCSEs)

How it is assessed: 100% Coursework

Course Overview:

- The course takes the form of two mandatory units plus additional units that provide for a combined total of 30 credits. The course covers the following unit areas:
- Unit 1 - Business Purposes: Looks at the nature of business organisations and the business environment in which they operate. (*mandatory*)
- Unit 2 - Business Organisations: Enables learners to understand the aims and objectives of business organisations and how they are organised into functional areas to meet their business aims and objectives. (*mandatory*)
- Unit 4 – People in Organisations: Enables learners to understand the part played by people in business organisations. They will do this through study of job roles and their functions.
- Unit 8 – Business Communication through Documentation: Looks at developing the learners’ ability to use written communication skills effectively in the context of a workplace setting.
- Unit 9 – Training and Employment in Business: Enables learners to understand the various rights and responsibilities that both employers and employees possess and the importance and benefit of motivation and training employees to organisations.
- Unit 20 – Managing Personal Finances: Enables learners to develop the skills and knowledge to manage their personal finances and be able to plan for a secure future.
- Learners must achieve at least a pass in all the units to be awarded the qualification.

Progression Pathways:

The successful completion of this course will prepare learners for employment or further education. Learners can continue studies into Level 3 learning at Ely Sixth Form Centre.

HOSPITALITY SKILLS

Type of Qualification: BTEC Extended Level 2 Certificate in Hospitality

How it is assessed: 100% assignments and practical tasks

Course Overview:

- BTEC in Hospitality is a course for those students who enjoy cooking, experimenting and learning more about the industry of Hospitality and Catering.
- The course is based on 100% assignment tasks over the 2 years. This includes carrying out practical cookery tasks, case studies, presentations, group work and research activities.
- The qualification consists of six units as follows: Investigating the catering and hospitality industry; Preparing, cooking and finishing food; Planning and running a hospitality event; Healthier food and special diets; Products, services and support in the hospitality industry and Contemporary world food.

Progression Pathways:

BTEC Hospitality gives learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques to enter employment in the hospitality industry. It also helps them progress to other vocational qualifications such as the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Hospitality; Level 1 to 2 Diploma in Professional Cookery.

ICT

Type of Qualification: Cambridge National Certificate

How it is assessed: 25% examination
75% Controlled Assessment

Course Overview:

- Current and emerging technologies - Students explore the impact of current and emerging technologies. Technology is studied in a variety of contexts that will interest students, from computer and mobile technologies, to communication and entertainment systems.
- A range of ICT tools and techniques - Students explore the ways in which tools and techniques are used to develop ideas and to solve problems. Through an externally set task students develop their knowledge of the information systems required to support businesses in their work.
- Creating dynamic products using sound and vision - 21st century technology such as gaming technologies, mobile phone apps, media marketing technologies and web-based technologies make great use of dynamic specialist technologies to differentiate their products for the end user. This unit will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that would be expected in creative media industries such as advertising, music and online marketing.

Progression Pathways:

Students may use this course of study as a suitable basis for higher studies at AS/A2 in Information and Communications Technology or in a related discipline. The course is best suited for anyone who feels they may wish to enter a profession or occupation which relies heavily on the use of IT, or go on to study IT or a related discipline in Higher Education.

SPORT

Type of Qualification: BTEC Sport Level 2 Diploma (Double option) or BTEC Sport Level 2 Extended Certificate (Single option).

How it is assessed: 100% coursework assessment. There are no exams

Course Overview:

- The BTEC Sport Level 2 Diploma and Extended Certificate courses are practical, work-related courses. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. The course suits practical learners who have a keen interest in the sports environment.
- The Diploma takes two of the students option blocks. The course introduces students to basic first aid, leadership and sports coaching. There is also an element of practical sport where students improve their individual skills. The course also provides a good basis to go on to more advanced work-related qualifications. Other optional units can be chosen from: Injury in Sport, Planning and leading Sports Activities, Development of Personal Fitness and the Effects of Exercise on the Body Systems.
- The Extended Certificate is a single option which consists of two mandatory units. Firstly, Fitness Testing and Training and secondly, Practical sport. Through the two years students complete two units: Planning and Leading Sports Activities and Running Sports Events. These focus on the process of organising and leading sporting events for various groups of students.
- All individual units are assessed and graded. These individual grades form an overall grade for the qualification and, as there are no exams, the assignments are on-going throughout the two year course.
- A key element of the course is the ability to meet deadlines and produce well organised pieces of coursework.
- Availability of the Sports Diploma and the Sports Extended Certificate will be based upon the numbers of students choosing these particular courses.

Progression Pathways:

A BTEC Sport Extended Certificate prepares students for employment and provides a good grounding to go on to a more advanced course such as: National Sport ,BTEC National Diploma, Certificate or Award in Sport (Outdoor Education), BTEC National Diploma, Certificate or Award in Sport (Performance and Excellence), BTEC National Diploma, Certificate or Award in Sport (Sports Development and Fitness) or A Level Physical Education.

CITY & GUILDS COURSES

City and Guilds Level 1 courses are practical, craft based courses that will provide students with a basic understanding of routine tasks involved within a particular career path. Completion of a Level 1 City and Guilds course could provide a useful stepping stone for those wishing to study a particular pathway at Level 2 and 3 at Further Education colleges or to enter an apprenticeship scheme.

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS

Type of Qualification: City and Guilds Certificate Level 1 Basic skills

How it is assessed: 100% Coursework

Course Overview:

- Construction makes up a large part of the UK economy, constantly requiring manpower to build, renovate & restore the infrastructure of the UK.
- A City and Guilds Certificate in Construction Skills is a non-examinable course. Students will gain the Certificate by completing several practical assignments throughout the course, followed by one final assessment.
- The theory element of the course is a taught aspect and students will need this in order to complete any practical work.

Progression Pathways:

This course has many potential pathways from tradesmen to architects. Various career routes can be found by contacting the CITB (Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for the Construction Industry).

HAIR AND BEAUTY

Type of Qualification: Basic Course E3 or Level 1

How it is assessed: 100% Coursework

Course Overview:

- This course will provide an introduction to some of the skills needed to work within the Hair and Beauty industry. The course will cover a variety of areas and skills as follows:
- An introduction to the Hair and Beauty industry and relevant Health and Safety issues.
- Personal presentation, customer service skills including how to manage a salon reception desk.
- Shampooing and conditioning hair, styling hair and the use of temporary colour on hair.
- Basic make up application, manicures and pedicures.

Progression Pathways:

This course will provide a basic introduction to the skills required in the Hair and Beauty industry. The course is particularly suited to those who wish to go onto study Level 2 or Level 3 qualifications in this area at post-16.

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Type of Qualification: City and Guilds Level 1 Award/Certificate

How it is assessed: 100% Assignments covering practical skills and underpinning knowledge

Course Overview:

- Level 1 in Hospitality and Catering is a course for those students who enjoy cooking, experimenting and learning more about the Hospitality and Catering industry.
- The course is based on 100% assignment tasks over the 2 years. This includes carrying out assignments based on practical skills and underpinning knowledge. There may also be a requirement to complete some underpinning knowledge test.
- The qualification is made up of practical units that will be specific to different food groups, for example, meat and poultry, baked goods, pasta or vegetables. It will also cover sections on healthy eating and special diets.

Progression Pathways:

A City and Guilds Level 1 in Hospitality and Catering can lead onto further professional qualifications at Post 16, including the Diploma in Professional Cookery, the Diploma in Professional Food & Beverage Service and an Award in Healthier Food and Special Diets. It would also provide a good starting knowledge for employment in the Hospitality and Catering industry and for apprenticeship schemes.